

REPORT ON THE WM. S. VAUX COLLECTIONS.

The Curator of the William S. Vaux Collection begs leave to report that since November 30th, 1896 he has added to it by purchase one hundred and twenty-five specimens. Although the number is not as large as in former years, yet the quality of the specimens is better, a number of them being species new to the collection including several extra fine large crystals.

As reported by the Curators several fine new cases were purchased during 1897 for the display of the various large specimens which had formerly been exposed.

The collection now numbers 8,091 specimens all in good order with the exception of two marcasites which have decomposed.

There have been no additions to the Archæological Collection since my last report though it continues to attract much attention from visitors.

WM. W. JEFFERIS,
Curator.

REPORT OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

The Section has held ten meetings during the year. The new room upon the second floor has been partially furnished and the collections placed therein. It is expected that upon the completion of anticipated improvements the accommodations for biological investigations may be made of permanent value to the members and increase the interest of the stated meetings.

During the year numerous communications have been made, of which the following were presented at the meetings of the Academy:—

“On the Structure of Diatoms,” by Mr. F. J. Keeley.

“Observations on Errant Frustules of *Eunotia major*,” and “Conjugation of *Closterium acerosum*,” by Mr. T. Chalkley Palmer.

“New Species of Diatoms,” by Mr. Charles S. Boyer.

“On *Isthemia nervosa* in Hudson Strait,” by Mr. John A. Shulze.

“Old and New Microscopes and Methods of Preparation,” by Dr. J. Cheston Morris.

Other communications of interest were made by Dr. Morris, Mr. Holman and Mr. Woolman.

The Conservator reports the loan to the Section of two microscopes by Dr. Morris, which are of value as models of ancient and peculiar construction. Mr. Shumo presented numerous specimens brought by him from Jamaica.

The Section has lost by death Mr. Chas. P. Perot, for a long time our Treasurer and valued member. Resolutions of respect were passed and presented at the meeting of the Academy.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

<i>Director</i> ,	J. Cheston Morris, M. D.
<i>Vice-Director</i> ,	T. Chalkley Palmer.
<i>Treasurer</i> ,	Lewis Woolman.
<i>Conservator</i> ,	F. J. Keeley.
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> ,	John G. Rothermel.
<i>Recorder</i> ,	Charles S. Boyer.

CHARLES S. BOYER,
Recorder.

REPORT OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SECTION.

Work on the collection during the past year has been confined mainly to the reidentification of the Bulimulidæ and other groups monographed in the *Manual of Conchology*, the rearrangement of part of the fresh-water shells, and the renovation and cataloguing of the alcoholic mollusks.

The accessions to the conchological museum have been important, though no single collection of great size has been received. A large number of new species and species new to the collection having been secured. Additions to our North American series have been made by Messrs. J. H. Ferris, R. C. McGregor, E. H. Ashmun and P. B. Randolph, whose collections from the Great Smoky Mountains, northern California, New Mexico and Alaska respectively, are worthy of special mention among those of the large number of naturalists who have added to our American series. Dr. H. von Ihering has continued to send valuable South American consignments, including a large series of alcoholic land snails from Brazil. The New Zealand collection received from Mr. H. Suter, and the Australian species from Messrs. W. T. Bednall and J. C. Cox, with a large number of land shells new to the collection, purchased by the Conchological Section and the Academy, materially augment the series of non-American mollusks.